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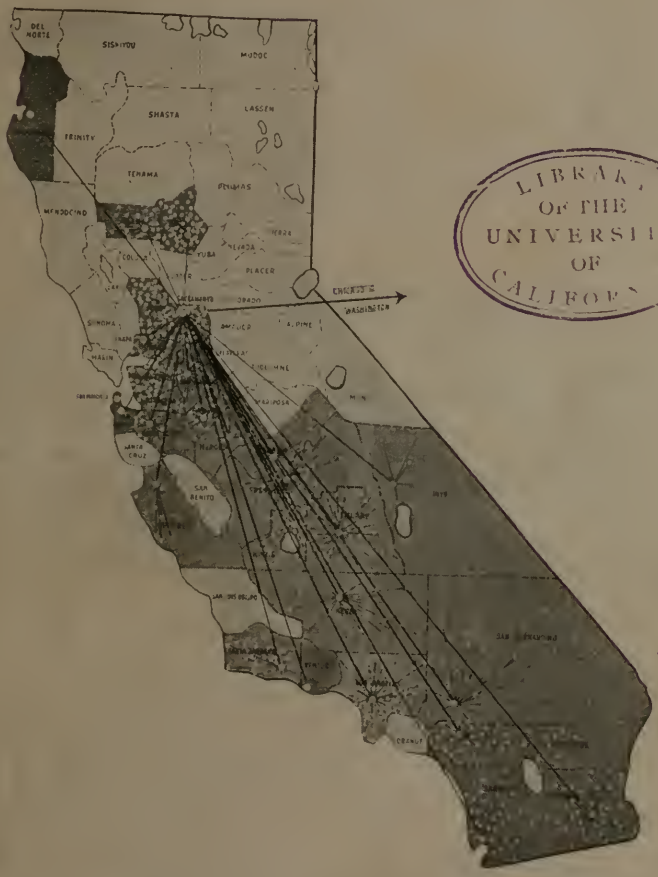
California Library Service

ECONOMICAL EQUAL COMPLETE



LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Counties that are darkened have established county free libraries.

This is a reproduction of the map exhibited in the American Library Association section, Palace of Education, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915. Map at Exposition measures 25 feet high and 22 feet wide.

California State Printing Office
Sacramento, 1915

17481

COMPILED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

to explain California Library Service in connection with the map exhibited in the American Library Association section, Palace of Education, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915; and also in connection with the moving picture film shown at both the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, California, and in San Diego, at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, no satisfactory arrangement having been possible for showing it at the Exposition there.

Map and all statistics represent conditions January 1, 1915 (except Ventura County Free Library which was added April, 1915).

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CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICE

ECONOMICAL—EQUAL—COMPLETE.

PLAN AND PROMISE—INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Library service in California has been called the most socialized thing in the state. In plan, there is no doubt, it reaches the highest point possible and the progress toward the realization of the plan is the most inspiring achievement on record in all library development.

CALIFORNIA'S NEEDS—IN CONNECTION WITH

1. *The State and Its Products.*

From the most southern counties—Imperial, the youngest county, with its cantaloup and cotton fields, its hogs and poultry, and San Diego on the coast, with a most equable climate, abounding in fruits and fish and with the finest tourmaline deposits in the United States, up to Modoc, Siskiyou and Del Norte counties on the extreme north, with their vast timber areas, dairying and beginnings of agriculture and horticulture—there is nearly every interest possible. There are rough and remote mining and lumbering communities, vast oil fields, large stretches of country given over to cattle and sheep for grazing purposes, fields of nearly every sort of grain, tracts planted to all kinds of nuts, orchards of every description, berry and vegetable fields—in fact in some parts of the state the climate and land are right for everything that has yet been tried.

Manufactures of all sorts are developing lumber and timber products, slaughtering and meat packing, canning and preserving, foundry and machine shop products, flourmill and gristmill products, printing and publishing, cars and general shop construction and repairs by steam railroad companies, petroleum refining, butter, cheese, and condensed milk, leather, tanned, curried and finished, malt liquors, wines, gas illuminating and heating, cement, automobiles, engines and power and fuel.

2. *The Individual Inquirer.*

In a state with such varied products and manufactures, the resident may need to investigate any subject at any time. Books or answers to questions must be within easy and quick reach of an individual, no matter where he may happen to be located, and they must be free of all expense. This is being accomplished in the California library service.

3. *The Clubs of Various Sorts.*

There are the civic improvement clubs, the charter framing committees, the park and city planning committees, the debating societies, the study clubs taking up such subjects as drama, literature, history, art, music, travel in various countries and domestic science. All of these groups need a great deal on the subject that is under consideration and the material needed should be available on request and with no expense to the borrower, because such committees and clubs seldom have any fund with which to buy books or even pay transportation on books borrowed. There is the added fact that it would be extravagant to buy such material, as it is simply a temporary need. These difficulties are met by the California library service.

4. *The Schools and Universities.*

The schools—elementary and high—need the standard reference books, supplementary readers and material for such occasions as debates, theses, amateur plays, musical evenings, illustrated lectures. School funds for library purposes are in no case adequate. The average country school has less than $50 a year to spend for new books. It needs several hundred books. It is not possible for a school to borrow to meet all of its needs, and transportation must be paid on those that can be borrowed. There is no money available to pay transportation charges. These problems are all solved by the California library service.

The universities start the student's interest and investigation along some line or lines. It is merely a start and after leaving the university the students are scattered about the country, often being

located in very remote communities. How can they continue their education if books and other such material are not easily and freely available? Often they are not receiving, in their chosen profession, or business, more than salary enough to cover living expenses. They can not afford to pay transportation on books borrowed, and often sent to them from a distance. The small town library—if there is one—is not at all likely to have the books needed. It is certainly an extravagant use of the state's money to support a university to start the education of its young people and not have a free and simple method for the continuance of that education. This is satisfactorily met in the California library service.

5. *The University Extension and Correspondence Course Student.*

Those who enroll as students in the University Extension Department, or are taking correspondence courses, are greatly handicapped if they can not get all the printed material recommended for the subjects. Often it is highly specialized material that would not be needed again either by the student or by a small local library—if there happened to be such an institution near. So it would be a waste of money for either the student or the local library to purchase it—even if there were funds ready for such purchases, which is usually not the case. It is difficult enough to find the time to give to the work of the extension course without having the added burden of expense and trouble in getting books needed for the course. This is another big problem in California which is being met by the state's plan of library service.

6. *The County Jails and County Hospitals.*

The service to jails, prisons, hospitals and such groups of people needing books of every sort carefully chosen to suit their wants has been a problem that states and counties have been conscious of for many years. To interpret these needs an especially efficient librarian must either be in charge of a branch library in the institution or such a person must be in close touch with the inmates. This problem is solved in the California library service.

7. *The County Farm Adviser.*

Several counties have appointed a county farm adviser and as he visits various parts of the county and discusses points with farmers, books and pamphlets are often mentioned as authorities on certain subjects under discussion. The farmer wants to read these and they should be available merely on request. It should not be necessary to take the time even to write a letter and it certainly should not be necessary for him to buy the material or even pay transportation on it. This need is very successfully met in California library service.

8. *The County Law Library.*

In the smaller counties where under the law it is possible to raise only a small amount for the support of the county law library, there should be some way to co-operate with a larger institution and in that way make the most of the small fund and in addition get easily the supplementary law material which the local law library can not afford to buy. Complete and free service for the law needs is arranged for in California library service.

9. *The County Teachers Library.*

For years the county superintendent of schools has tried to use to best advantage the money provided—under the law—for a county teachers library. It was often difficult—in some cases impossible—in addition to regular duties to keep track of the book market and be sure of getting the best for the money. Even after the books were bought, there was no one to catalog them and there was no fund with which to send them out to the teachers of the county. These drawbacks to the success of the county teachers library are overcome now in the California library service.

10. *The Small Free Library, the Larger Free Public Library and the District Library.*

By the small free library is meant the small library that although free to the public is supported by subscriptions or by association memberships. Such a library is usually supported by a few and the cost to each one that contributes is very high. Even then the total amount raised is not sufficient to pay even for suitable quarters and service for the library, and the supply of books can not be satisfactory.

The free public library and the district library are both supported by a tax on

the territory covered. The law allows three mills on the dollar of assessed valuation for cities of the 4th, 5th and 6th classes. The districts that have district libraries tax themselves as high as 2.9 mills on the dollar. Still the amount raised is not sufficient to pay running expenses of building and a salary sufficient to have a trained librarian and then have anything left with which to buy the necessary books and pay transportation on supplementary books needed. The borrower, if he gets what he needs, often has to pay transportation to and from some larger library. This expense prevents many from getting everything they need.

All of these difficulties are overcome in the present plan for California library service.

11. *The Professional California Librarian.*

Of course many of the larger libraries of California have needed and have secured technically trained librarians for many years past. But, as there has been no training school for librarians in California and as only a few could attend the eastern library schools, it has been necessary for many libraries to employ many people who were not familiar with California conditions and needs. The University of California has helped with its summer school in library methods but for many years California has felt the need of a library school. This need is now being met, and with a new and inspiring profession opening up for the young men and women of California, the possibility of getting their training in California adds to the attractiveness of the work.

12. *The California State Library.*

The State Library, being built up and kept up for the use of the legislature and state officers, must in order to meet such needs be a collection covering all subjects and including all sorts of material—law; legislative reference material; documents, including official publications of cities, counties, states, United States and some foreign countries; California historical material including bound volumes of the newspapers of the state properly indexed; general reference material such as serial publications, books and pamphlets covering history, literature, science, useful arts, fine arts, economics, philosophy, and bibliographies of all sorts. This material is the sort that supplements the free public and other libraries of the state as they are obliged to spend most of their money on fiction and children's books. In order to get the full value of the state's investment in its State Library, the collection should be accessible to all the people of the state—not only the few who are already within reach of a public library; not only those who can afford to pay transportation and who can take the time to write for material needed, can take the trouble to receive and acknowledge a shipment, wrap and go through the necessary details of returning a shipment, answering due notices, etc. A way has been thought out by which *all* of the people can use their State Library and its use is equal and simple for all. This use of the State Library is a vital part of California's solution of library service.

CALIFORNIA'S SOLUTION—BY MEANS OF

1. *The County Free Library.**

The county free library in California is a library which is established by resolution of the supervisors; which is supported by the county with a tax of not more than one mill on one dollar of assessed valuation; which is in charge of a trained and experienced librarian who has been certificated by the State Board of Library Examiners; which has its business headquarters in the county seat and branches in every part of the county; which may take over and manage school district library and funds, county law library and fund, and county teachers' library and fund; which may supplement and co-operate with public libraries if the towns they are in request and make necessary arrangements to be included; and which gives free service to every resident of the county.

The county free library acts as a store house and center of distribution for the whole county and as the connecting link between the State Library and the people of the county. With the county building up

*Note.—The bill for the county free library was introduced in the California legislature of 1911 by H. Stanley Benedict of Los Angeles and was signed February 25, 1911, by Governor Hiram W. Johnson.

a collection, it meets its constant needs by furnishing through its branches answers and books for many of the individual inquirers, by filling some of the needs of its clubs and such organizations; by taking over, when requested to do so, the library money of school districts, pooling it and thus getting more books for the use of all the schools and in addition supplementing the regular school library needs from the general county free library collection; by furnishing some of the material needed by the university graduates for their further investigations; by buying and loaning material needed by the members of the University of California debating league, the university extension student and correspondence course student; by placing branches in jails, prisons and hospitals; by buying and loaning some of the material recommended by the county farm adviser; by caring for and loaning the books of the county law and county teachers' libraries; and by filling some of the supplementary needs of the small free library, the larger free public library and the district library. With all of these first needs met through a county institution, and with a large collection being built up in this way with a very small tax (a tax rate less than a third of what is levied for the average free public library in a town), it is possible for the State Library to undertake to supplement the county free library and to do it free of all expense to the county or borrower. So in a county with a county free library, all parts of the county that are paying the slight county free library tax receive free library service from the county collection and free supplementary service from the State Library.

All unnecessary duplication is avoided and by every one sharing in a slight tax, we have a service which is more free and more complete even than our public schools, for it furnishes everything needed alike to young and old, and rich and poor.

The public libraries in the larger cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, etc., are not only serving the residents of those cities but are also assisting all they can toward getting county free libraries started to serve those parts of the state that are without public library service. They are always very willing to loan a book which they may have that the county free library at the start may not have in its collection, and so, in this way, assist toward the plan for complete service for those residents of the state who are being reached by the county free libraries.

Several parts of the service can logically and, at least at present, be left entirely to the State Library. The books for the blind is an example. It is in the interest of better service to let the State Library distribute all of the books for the blind. The borrowers are scattered and the state is as yet not able to handle financially more than one such collection and have it large enough to be of value to the blind people of the state. The fact that the U. S. Government grants free transportation on books for the blind sent to and from an institution loaning them is another reason for continuing the distribution from one center for the present at least. The State Library has one home and library teacher for the blind in Los Angeles who helps to locate the blind there and to see that they learn to read and get books that they want. The county librarians have helped greatly by making known to any blind resident of the county the resources of the State Library that are for their use. So even here the co-operation of the county and State Library has very satisfactory results. The service is very simple and entirely free as a blind person needs only to send his name and address and wishes in the way of books. He can have the use of as many as he needs and for as long as he needs them.

The fact that foreigners are in scattered groups makes it also logical that one institution should buy and loan all such library material. So the State Library is undertaking to meet the needs of the state for foreign books. They are, however, loaned through the county free library.

A collection of pictures is also being started by the State Library and it was thought that the films, slides, records, etc., needed by schools and groups in isolated communities could best be furnished by the State Library and distributed through the county free library. But up to the present the State Library fund has not

been sufficient. As such material could go out in the same shipments with books and other library material, it seems as if such a distribution of the much needed aids to visual instruction must work out before very long.

The State Library has a County Library Organizer and a School Library Organizer who are sent out on request to those parts of the state needing information and assistance in establishing a county free library, or in the school library service possible under California laws. This work can best be carried on by the State Library as it is for the benefit of the state as a whole to have the library service of all sorts improved. Within the counties, however, when some smaller library needs advice or assistance on any technical library matter, the county librarian gives the needed help. There is no charge made for the assistance of state or county so here again perfect co-operation means economy.

The Sutro Library of about 125,000 volumes which was recently presented to the State Library by the heirs of the late Adolph Sutro, when properly listed and shelved, will be a San Francisco branch of the State Library and also made accessible to the people of the state. As it consists of material collected for the use of the advanced scholar, it will help very greatly toward the supplementary library service undertaken by the State Library.

Another aid to the libraries and the people of the state is a Union Catalog which is at the State Library. It aims to include an author card for every addition to every library in California. The county free libraries and a few public libraries are sending cards. Stanford University accessions since October, 1912, are included and cards are being received from the University of California Library as the books are recatalogued. The State Library is also a depository for cards from Harvard University Library, the University of Chicago Library and the Library of Congress.

If the book requested by some resident of the state through his nearest branch is not in the State Library, it is possible at least to send back the information as to where the book is, and then it is borrowed from that library by the County Librarian. In this way the resources of the state are made available to every resident and the central location for the information at the State Library saves time and expense of locating the book when it may be a rush need.

2. *The California State Library School.* The State Library established the California State Library School September 4, 1913. This will help to meet the need for technically trained librarians who are not only familiar and in sympathy with the California conditions and needs, but who will go out into different parts of the state well informed on the resources of their State Library and so much better able to see that it is used by the people in the part of the state where they are employed.

3. *The California Library Association and County Librarians Convention.* The California Library Association includes in its membership most of the library workers and libraries in the state and at its annual convention the unity of the state's effort toward complete service is emphasized. By getting better acquainted the workers although scattered carry on the service as if they were a part of one institution.

The county free library law requires that an annual convention of county librarians be called and that the county librarians attend. These meetings where ideas are exchanged have helped greatly in perfecting the county free library service.

4. *The State Library's Quarterly Publication, News Notes of California Libraries.*

Another unifying factor is the quarterly publication of the State Library—"News Notes of California Libraries." It includes statistical reports and news items of all of the libraries of the state; a directory of library supplies and other items of general interest such as index to California library current events; a section on the California Library Association; one on the Board of Library Examiners; full information about the work of the State Library and State Library School, including the accessions of the library for that quarter; and frequently bibliographies on subjects of especial interest to the state.

This publication keeps up the acquaintance of library workers and keeps each one informed of the work of the others, and, being sent free to all libraries in the state, is sure of reaching everyone.

SUMMARY—ECONOMICAL, EQUAL AND COMPLETE.

Economical, equal and complete is the goal of the plan for California library service and as tried in the counties that have put it into operation, it has proved such a startling success that the eyes of the world are directed toward California as being the state that is rapidly solving all of the library problems that have appeared since libraries began to want to be free and to give service.

*SOME OF CALIFORNIA'S LIBRARY SERVICE IN FIGURES AND PICTURES.**

Totals:

Free public libraries	132
District libraries	5
County free libraries	26
Law libraries	66
County teachers' libraries	58
Libraries in educational institutions	334
Association and subscription libraries	111
Miscellaneous institution libraries	47
Total	779
Branches and deposit stations connected with above listed libraries: Total	1263
Library buildings: gifts	129
others	21
Total	150

Growth in one sort of library service:

California—
Area, 158,297 square miles.
Second in size among the states.
Population, 2,377,549 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $3,134,811,284 (for 1914-15).
Number of counties, 58.

County Free Library Service—
Area covered, 95,930 square miles.
Population reached, 1,557,008.
Appropriation made, $280,362.58.

School districts that have joined, 299.
Counties active, 26, as follows:

Alameda	Monterey
Butte	Riverside
Contra Costa	Sacramento
Fresno	San Bernardino
Glenn	San Diego
Humboldt	San Joaquin
Imperial	San Mateo
Inyo	Santa Barbara
Kern	Santa Clara
Kings	Solano
Los Angeles	Stanislaus
Madera	Tulare
Merced	Yolo

Counties added since January, 1915:
Ventura.

County free library service in California means free and complete library service to every resident of the county. Schools can be included in the service.

The California State Library supplements the county service free.

The plan provides for complete library service to every resident of every county in the state—free.

It is growing.

The first county free library was established in Sacramento County October 1, 1908.

In Jan., 1909, there were 8 branches.

In Jan., 1911, there were 90 branches.

First satisfactory county free library law passed Feb. 25, 1911.

In Jan., 1913, there were 255 branches.

In Jan., 1915, there were 1,073 branches.

Alameda County.

Served under contract by the Oakland Free Library.

Charles S. Greene, Librarian.

Miss Mary Barmby, Chief of Alameda County Department.

Pictures:

In the children's room.

The book hospital
Splints for broken backs!

Story hour in Mosswood Park
Oakland.

Alameda County Jail
showing a jail delivery.

Branch at
historic Mission San Jose.

Alameda County

County seat, Oakland.

Area, 840 square miles.

Population, 246,131 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $252,751,974 (taxable for county $228,979,564).

County library service established September 26, 1910, by contract between the

*For a graphic picture of California Library Service *see* the map of The California County Free Library on the wall above the American Library Association Exhibit in Palace of Education, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Cal.

**For picture of California Library Service, see moving picture film in Palace of Education, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, and in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, San Diego.

Board of Supervisors of Alameda County and the Board of Library Directors of the Oakland Free Library. Work started November 1, 1910. Appropriation 1914-15, $23,500. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915) 25:16 with reading rooms; 3 in other libraries; 6 in schools and elsewhere.

The population of Alameda County is mostly the urban end, to the north and west. Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda comprise six-sevenths of the total, and these cities had long had good libraries. This was true also of the smaller cities of Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Leandro. Even the unincorporated town of Niles had for some years a library owned by an association.

Oakland's collection of books was at once by the terms of the contract made open to all the inhabitants of the county, and hundreds of persons have taken advantage of that extension, principally residents of Berkeley, Emeryville and Piedmont. The idea of regulation library service was, in consequence of these facts, well disseminated throughout the county, and it has been the effort of the county department to give to the rural population as nearly a city service as possible. For this reason branches in separate quarters with reading rooms, with paid attendants, with a permanent collection of books and with the service of periodicals, pictures, stereographic views, and frequent delivery from the main library, have made up the major part of its work. Schools have had less attention, but are gradually being shown the advantage of collective use of their funds. County institutions, the jail, the almshouse and infirmary, are regularly served. The department co-operates with the county farm adviser, buying books that he suggests, which he helps to circulate.

The libraries of Alameda are:

Oakland Free Library (11 branches and Public Museum) volumes 104,616.

County Department (25 branches) 20,700.

Alameda Library (1 branch) 47,303.

Alameda County Law Library, 12,000.

Berkeley Library (5 branches) 55,633.

Hayward Library, 4,088.

San Leandro Library, 3,423.

Livermore Library, 3,722.

The University of California Library at Berkeley (including the valuable Bancroft library of Pacific Coast History) 352,514.

Grand total of volumes, 603,999.

Butte County Free Library.

Miss Gladys Brownson, County Librarian.

Butte County

County seat, Oroville.

Area, 1,764 square miles.

Population, 27,301 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $25,247,155 (taxable for county $20,125,743).

County Free Library established Sept. 3, 1913. Work started Nov. 1, 1913. Appropriation, 1915-16, $5,800. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 67.

During the thirteen months that the Butte County Free Library has been in operation, books have been distributed to every corner of the county.

In the larger communities the school and community are served separately but the widely scattered population of the smaller districts is served through the school. In this way the school furnishes the reading for both adults and children. When summer schools close for the winter months some resident cares for the books so the readers are not deprived of books although the school has closed.

The most remote branch, where the people are snow-bound for three months, is served early in the fall with sufficient reading matter for that time.

The library is already circulating about 3,000 books each month.

Contra Costa County Free Library.

Mrs Alice G. Whitbeck, County Librarian.

Pictures:

The headquarters.

100 shipments
by express each month.

The properties
of a lumber company
as a center for
branch library service.

The Swedish books
have come.

Through the branch
at the sugar refinery
and that of the town
books reach everyone.

Contra Costa County
County seat, Martinez.
Area, 750 square miles.
Population, 31,674 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $52,204,930 (taxable for county $45,808,455).
County free Library established July 21, 1913, work started Oct. 1, 1913. Appropriation, 1914-15, $10,726.63. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 50.

The library facilities of Contra Costa County had been but very little developed before the establishment of the county free library. Martinez had a small subscription library, two other towns were trying to make a start and only Richmond had a flourishing public library.

Martinez, the county seat, though not the geographic center is very easy of access to the many manufacturing towns along the water front and with express to all the farming centers makes a very central town from which to work.

So rapidly did the idea of having local branches appeal to all communities, there are now 50 different collections of books in constant use. These collections vary according to the needs of the community and are housed as each place finds most convenient. Some are in reading rooms, club rooms, schoolhouses, post offices, grocery stores, private homes, lodge rooms, in all cases the rooms being furnished by the community.

A branch is located wherever the interest is great enough to make the demand. Books are exchanged as often as desired, and requests are answered by parcel post or express as promptly as possible. There is no time limit on any of the collections. Magazines are taken for all the schools and branches.

The seventy miles of water frontage are dotted with factories of every kind, and each town along the bay has its branch. The large farming interior is well supplied by branches in all the town centers.

During the first month of the library four branches were formed, and the circulation was 177 volumes. During January, 1915, the fifty branches circulated 6,148 volumes. These figures tell the story of the appreciation of the county free library.

Fresno County Free Library.
Miss Sarah E. McCardle, County Librarian.

Pictures:
Branch in hotel building
Branch in business building
Branch in Carnegie building
Branch in tank house
No dry books
Children enjoy story hour
Scenes at headquarters.
Note the Chinese borrowers

Fresno County
County seat, Fresno.
Area, 6,035 square miles.
Population, 75,657 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $96,567,818 (taxable for county $82,678,446).
County Free Library established March 12, 1910. Appropriation, 1914-15, $25,290. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 40.

In this county there were only two public libraries, at Fresno and Selma, and a few very inadequate subscription libraries, previous to the opening of the county free library in 1910. Now every town, village and community has its county branch and has every privilege of a library.

The county free library has certainly been a great blessing to the people of the county—it has helped the schools, opened up opportunities for education the country schools have never had before. It is helping to educate, not only our young people, but the older ones as well, giving them a broader, better outlook on life. It has helped to make life worth living in the most remote parts of the county at the lumber camps in the mountains, and on the lonely farms.

Glenn County Free Library.
Miss Essae M. Culver, County Librarian.

Pictures:
Branch in country store
Branch in bank building
Old hotel bar room turned into library branch
Books always on tap

Glenn County

County seat, Willows.

Area, 1,460 square miles.

Population, 7,172 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $17,576,399 (taxable for county, $15,678,263).

County Free Library established April 8, 1914. Work started Aug. 1, 1914. Appropriation, 1914-15, $4,335.64. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 20.

Glenn County is part of that great agricultural region known as the Sacramento Valley and in its pursuits offers no diversity, for agriculture is its "raison d'etat" and the only variation in activity comes in the great diversity of products possible in this region.

The county free library has come to fill a long felt need for most of the population, in colonies and scattered on the large ranches, has had no access to books either for information or recreational reading and this lack was most keenly felt during the long rainy season when outdoor activity was impossible.

The avidity with which the county free library idea was taken up testifies to the eagerness of the people for books, and in the first six months of operation 19 branches were established, the details of location and custodian having been worked out, in almost every case, before the coming of the county librarian.

The branch at Ord is in the general store of Mr Stull. There is no settlement immediately surrounding this store but the farmers of the neighborhood come here for their provisions and Mrs Stull, the custodian, supplies them with books. The demands at this branch are for material for club programs for the farmers' wives, information for the farmer, and recreational reading for all.

At Hamilton, a city built up around a sugar factory at present not in operation, the library is in the bank building, donated by the sugar company. The library is open a part of every week day and a good supply of magazines supplements the book material. The children are the most eager patrons of this branch, but they are gradually inducing the parents to make use of this opportunity also.

Orland is a wide awake, bustling community of 1,200 inhabitants, eager to take advantage of every opportunity, educational or social, offered, so that the library, from the beginning, has been a busy institution. It is located in what was formerly the bar room of the hotel, the bar still serving the public with stimulants and the new use makes the building more popular than the old, for over 520 books, a number larger than the total collection, were issued in the third month of its operation and each month the patronage is rapidly increasing.

The branch in the Willows Public Library has been established but a few weeks but already a great many requests have been received for material for club programs, debates, agricultural information and for school work which could not have been supplied from the resources of the public library alone.

Humboldt County Free Library.

Miss Ida M. Reagan, County Librarian.

Humboldt County

County seat, Eureka.

Area, 3,507 square miles.

Population, 33,857 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $33,793,967 (taxable for county, $32,189,821).

County Free Library established May 12, 1914. Work to be started April 12, 1915. Appropriation 1914-15, about $6,000.

Imperial County Free Library.

Mrs Thomas B. Beeman, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Box car branch
at desert station

Books and other food supplies
travel to one branch
by way of Arizona and
Colorado River ferry

The C M Ranch (million acres)
mostly in Mexico has
a branch for employees
nearly all foreigners

Imperial County

County seat, El Centro.

Area, 4,316 square miles.

Population, 13,591 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $25,757,829 (taxable for county, $21,550,157).

County Free Library established Feb. 6, 1912. Appropriation, 1914-15, $2,155.02. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 38.

The circulation of the Imperial County Free Library in its three years of existence gives an idea of its growth and popularity:

The first year 7,636 books were circulated.

The second year 32,792 books were circulated.

The third year 55,401 books were circulated.

Some of the locations in this county that are receiving library service are unique. Imperial Junction (now Niland) was the junction where people change to go to Yuma and to Imperial Valley. The population—not more than 75 at the time the branch was established consisted of railroad employees. With no stores, everything was brought to the people by train. The post office was located in a box car and this was the only place that seemed available for the library quarters. The postmaster finally agreed to take upon himself another duty so he moved his post office to one-half of the car and gave us the other half for the use of the branch. The post office and county free library branch did the biggest business in the whole place.

Bard is nearly on the border line between California and Arizona, and to get books to the people at the branch there, they are sent first to Yuma, Arizona. Then they are ferried across the Colorado River—the horse and wagon with books and daily supplies, driving on the ferry boat and riding across.

Another unusual example of location is the C M Ranch—a million acre ranch known as the California Mexico Ranch, most of the land being in Mexico. The borrowers—employees of the ranch—are largely foreigners and many of them are learning the English language and asking for easy reading books.

The library service to the schools is a big part of the rapid growth. In one school district, the branch library was so popular and the demand for books so great that it outgrew its quarters in the schoolhouse and needed more room. Entertainments were given, box suppers and many other festivities, and as the result there stands in the school yard a little portable bungalow building with built-in shelves and attractive interior. The people purchased the portable house, hauled it on a wagon from the depot for 9 miles and put it up themselves. It is one of the thriving branches. The circulation the first year was 827 and for its second year 3,985 books.

Inyo County Free Library.

Miss Jennie May Brown, County Librarian.

Inyo County

County seat, Independence.

Area, 10,224 square miles.

Population, 6,974 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $12,233,464 (taxable for county, $7,866,885).

County Free Library established Sept. 15, 1913. Work started Oct. 1, 1913. Appropriation, 1914-15, $4,200. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 7.

Inyo County is the second largest county in the state—as large as all the New England states, except Maine, combined. But in this territory is only a small population, and the increase, if any, has been very slight in the last five years owing to inadequate transportation facilities and its isolation from the rest of the state, and from the world in fact. The population is scattered the length of the county, the majority being in Owens Valley; however, there are many miners in the mountains.

There is only one incorporated town in the county, with a population of about 1,200 within its limits and about 1,300 more in its neighborhood. The other towns vary from about 150 to 500, the county being distinctly a rural people. The county seat, the headquarters of the library, is one of the smaller towns, thus making the work rather more difficult, necessitating a large amount of traveling.

The population of the county consists of miners, cattlemen and ranchers, besides the usual storekeepers, professional men, etc., and the Indians, the original inhabitants.

In 1913 when the county free library was established there were no libraries in the county, except two small club libraries, both of which were turned over to the county free library almost immediately. From the start the people were anxious for the books and it has been a question, not of getting people to read the books but of getting books for the

people to read. After a year and a half of work there are 1,205 borrowers, 4 reading rooms, 3 deposit stations, 1 combination deposit and school branch, and two schools receiving just school service, with two more schools which have contracted for service for the coming year.

There are 2,126 volumes belonging to the county besides a state loan which enables the library to do greater work. The circulation for the fiscal year ending Juue 30, 1914 (for nine months' time, the library being established Oct. 1, 1913), was 6,623 while the circulation for the quarter January-March, 1915, was 6,247. The circulation for the nine months of this year, July-March 1915, is 13,406 or over twice that of the first nine months of establishment.

The ranchers are now beginning to feel the practical need of the library, coming in to ask why their grapevines "bleed," what should be done for black rot, how to trim their berry vines, etc. Several agricultural debates have been decided by the books at the Library.

One club last year asked for service, while three clubs, one divided into two study sections, thus making four subjects, have been served this year.

When a bridge was washed out last year books were promptly requested from the State Library, and served so valuable a purpose that they were requested again this year, when other bridges were to be built.

Kern County Free Library.

Miss Harriet C. Long, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Headquarters in county court house

Power plant library branch

Library branch in an oil center

A library oasis in the desert

Kern county

County seat, Bakersfield.

Area, 8,159 square miles.

Population, 37,715 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $85,347,560 (taxable for county, $70,195,243).

County Free Library established Nov. 16, 1910. Work started Nov. 1, 1911. Appropriation, 1914-15, $17,300. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 38.

Prior to the opening of the Kern County Free Library, the city of Bakersfield was the only community in the entire county to maintain a free library. Opportunities for library service were therefore very great, for the immense oil fields, the mines, the ranches, the desert claims and the power plants had attracted to the county a thoroughly wide-awake and intelligent people of varied interests.

Bakersfield, the county seat of Kern County, is fortunately located near the center of the county, and the County Free Library headquarters are in the court house at that place.

Fixed collections of books are unknown in the system of library service as operated in Kern County, for the books sent to each branch are carefully selected with the needs of that particular community in mind. Nor is there any limit to the length of time for which the books may be retained at any branch. The collection is constantly shifting. Each month on the receipt of some new books, the custodian returns to the business headquarters any books no longer needed by her patrons. At all times the people of the county are urged to make their book wants known, and every effort is made to supply individual books. The number of volumes in any branch varies also according to the community, some of the smaller branches having but forty volumes, while other collections embrace more than 700. In some of the larger towns the people have furnished a room—or even erected a building (one has a portable building) in which to house the branch library and provide reading room facilities. But the branch may also be in the village post office, in the schoolhouse, in the church at the cross roads, in the warehouse of an oil company, or in the home of some good woman who has voluntcered to share her parlor with the people of her neighborhood in order that they may have library service. But wherever the branch may be located, whether it be in some little mountain village forty miles from the railroad, or in the heart of the oil fields, guarded by the multitude of derricks which are everywhere silhouetted against the horizon, or

even in the midst of the great Mojave desert, the books are heartily welcomed by the people.

Kings County Free Library.

Miss Bessie B. Silverthorn, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Headquarters
School boys carry books
to city schools

Branch in restaurant
Proprietor is custodian
Books served free

Library service
to harvester camps
too far from regular branch
to get books there

Kings County

County seat, Hanford.
Area, 1,375 square miles.
Population, 16,230 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $16,237,992 (taxable for county, $13,450,270).

County Free Library established June 4, 1912. Work started Nov. 12, 1912. Appropriation, 1914-15, $9,335.23. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 38.

The Kings County Free Library has branches in all the communities representing the varied activities of the county. Armona and Grangeville Branch are in the heart of the fruit district, Lemoore Branch is in the alfalfa region, Stratford Branch on the edge of the grain country, while Corcoran Branch is in the dairying and grain center. The remaining branches of the county free library are distributed through the various communities, one of them being below Tulare Lake, about 45 miles from the county seat, and about 20 miles from a railroad. The county free library is endeavoring to serve not only the permanent residents of the county, but also the great number of temporary workers attracted to the county during the fruit cutting, raisin drying, and grain harvesting seasons, and made up of some of the finest young men and women in the state.

One of the films taken in Kings County shows the county free library service to one of the many harvesting camps around Tulare Lake. Boxes of books were distributed to these camps in the care of the foremen, and last year in one month over 500 books and magazines were loaned, in this way. In the picture taken the county librarian is leaving a box of books in front of the cook wagon at one camp. The men who are waiting for dinner gather around the box and several select books for later reading. One man takes a book he is especially interested in (The Prince of India) over to his tent before going in to dinner, as he wants to be sure no one else gets it ahead of him.

The second film shows the Stratford Branch of the Kings County Free Library, with the custodian, Mrs A. M. Winskill, in the doorway. Stratford is a real pioneer town, and the library custodian manages the only restaurant in the town, is the trained nurse for the community, and is its correspondent with out of town newspapers.

The third film taken shows the Hanford Public Library, the headquarters of the Kings County Free Library, with which it cooperates. Two boys are taking some special request material over to the public school in the city library's book carrier. Teachers telephone to the library their needs, and this method of quick service through the book box is the result.

The library service of the county is keeping pace with the county's development, and at every point endeavors to be the ally and helper of the county people, men, women and children.

Los Angeles County Free Library.

Miss Celia Gleason, County Librarian.

Pictures:

County Hospital patients
enjoy books from
County Free Library

Record in opening branch
Request telephoned
to headquarters (70 miles)
Books selected and shipped
Received and loaned
all in less than two days

County Free Library serves
new socialist colony

Children help
county librarian
open branch in schoolhouse

Library branch
at borax mine

Branch on recreation pier,
a record "breaker"

Los Angeles County
County seat, Los Angeles.
Area, 4,000 square miles.
Population, 504,131 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $849,991,559 (taxable for county $692,165,449).
County Free Library established Sept. 5, 1912. Appropriation, 1914-15, $42,943. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 84.

The Los Angeles County Free Library dates from January 1, 1913, the first branch being established in April of that year. At the end of two years there are in operation 93 branches, with 20,000 cardholders, a monthly circulation of 40,000 volumes, 52,000 books on deposit in the branches and 15,500 volumes in the central library including 5,500 in the Teachers' Library, to be drawn upon. The branches extend from Antelope Valley to Catalina, and from Claremont to Owensmouth. The pictures shown are of representative branches.

Hermosa Beach opened July, 1913, in small rented quarters. It now occupies a spacious room at the entrance of the municipal pier. It has on deposit 1,000 volumes, a circulation of 731 a month, and 715 readers are registered. A large summer population from surrounding towns enjoy transient privileges.

The Sterling Borax Mine located five miles back into the mountains from Lang in the Soledad Canyon has a population of about a hundred, all employees of the mine and their families. There are on deposit 166 volumes, and a circulation of 65 a month is reported. The library was opened in a tent, and the sectional book cases were made of powder boxes.

Lancaster, the oldest town in Antelope Valley, has had its branch since July, 1913. It now contains 930 volumes, with a circulation of 556 a month, and 473 registered borrowers. It has commodious quarters, shared with the Chamber of Commerce in a new brick building.

Llano, a new settlement in Antelope Valley twenty-three miles east of Palmdale, has 396 volumes, 129 readers, and a circulation of 310 a month. It was opened in August, 1914, and has recently been moved to the club house which is the social center of the town.

Leona School District, west of Palmdale was being established as the picture was being taken. It is located in the schoolhouse which is the social center of the Leoneis Valley. The branch was opened with 216 volumes and 23 borrowers immediately made application.

As the librarian was unloading boxes of freight for Leona School District at Palmdale, citizens of this town became interested. Application for a branch was promptly made, the librarian telephoned to Los Angeles for books and supplies, which were sent up the next day by express, and by nine o'clock of the day after, the branch was opened with over 200 volumes, 23 borrowers at once signed.

The library of the county hospital was started by the Christian Endeavor Society several years ago and originally consisted of books discarded by city libraries in the county. In 1913 a building was erected providing space for a newspaper and recreation room for patients, a general reading room, a study room for internes and a stack room containing books of general interest furnished by the county free library and a collection of medical books for the physicians. In addition is a permanent deposit in the tuberculosis ward of several hundred books contributed by La Vina Sanitorium, in which sanitorium is a branch of the county free library.

Los Angeles Public Library.

Everett R. Perry, Librarian.

Pictures:

The information desk
Borrowers helped to find
just what they want

Loan desk
Some days 5,000 books loaned

New Carnegie
branch building

Outdoor reading room
enjoyed almost entire year

Playground branch
Games first
then a quiet hour with books

In Los Angeles
100,000 people
have library cards
They borrow nearly
2,000,000 books yearly

Los Angeles City

Area 107.12 square miles.

Population, 319,198 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation $508,247,110 (non-operative, $415,864,410).

Free Public Library established in 1891. Appropriation 1914-15, $173,269. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 30 and deposit stations 51.

This is the largest public library in the West, having a circulation of 1,715,000 books in 1914. It now stands seventh among American public libraries in point of book circulation, and the largest west of Chicago. Its service covers one hundred and seven square miles, through its main library, thirty branches and fifty-one deposit stations, the later located in shops, stores and schoolhouses. The main library occupies beautiful and convenient rented quarters in the shopping district. On busy days as many as 5,000 books are loaned at the delivery desk in the adult circulation department. Over two million people visit the central library in a year. Beside the usual circulation, reference and juvenile departments, and the periodical room, the Los Angeles Public Library has three special departments, in which all the reference and circulating books and magazines on the subjects are collected. These, the Industrial, the Art and Music, and the Sociology Departments, are in charge of specially trained assistants. The Art and Music Department has a collection of 3,500 bound volumes of musical scores, which circulate free, like books. There is also a sound proof music room and a piano, which can be used free by the public to try over the music. Practically all of the books in the main library are on open shelves where the readers have free access to them. In two years the circulation has grown 70 per cent, while the expense only 14 per cent.

The Arroyo Seco branch building, a gift of Mr Carnegie, shows a California novelty, the outdoor reading room, much enjoyed during almost the entire year.

The Echo Park branch is housed in the Playground Building. Here the boys and girls come in from playing their games, and spend a quiet hour with the books. There is a Public Library branch at each of the five city playgrounds.

Madera County Free Library.

Miss Maude L. Mast, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Branch in telephone office
Operator is custodian
Every call answered

Branch in hotel annex
Landlady is custodian

Farm adviser adds books
to his advice en route

Madera County

County seat, Madera.

Area, 2,140 square miles.

Population, 8,368 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $15,754,791 (taxable for county, $13,329,260).

County Free Library established May 3, 1910. Appropriation, 1914-15, $7,797.45. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915) 33.

Madera County Free Library, though less than five years old, now operates through thirty-three branches, of which nineteen are schools and fourteen in private homes, in stores and in post offices.

The newest branch in length of time established and method of operation is the Farm Adviser Branch, of which the Madera County farm adviser is the custodian. The books which circulate through this branch are always of a practical nature and deal with agricultural and related subjects. They are carried by the farm adviser, in his automobile, direct to the farm center meetings and often to the homes where the farmer and his family make their selections and at the same time consult with the adviser on farming problems. During the four months this branch has been in operation it has fully proved its usefulness.

Several of the branches will undoubtedly grow into community centers with a reading room open during definite hours. The towns of Chowchilla and Raymond will probably be the first to reach this point. The Chowchilla branch has the largest monthly circulation and is situated in a rapidly developing agricultural section. Raymond, a little foothill town, has an active Woman's Club which finds the county free library very useful, and the reports from this branch are much more gratifying at this time than at the same time a year ago.

Coarse Gold, another mountain branch, is located in a mining section, and while it has a small number of borrowers, its location in the reading room of the hotel makes it an ideal center around which the men gather toward evening, and consequently is one of the most promising branches, for the hotel proprietor has under way a number of improvements to the building which will tend to make it more inviting.

Merced County Free Library.

Miss Winifred H. Bigley, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Headquarters in rented room of business block

Branch in directors' room of bank

Branch in storeroom of business block

New community with library books in country residence

Branch in newspaper office Editor is custodian

Branch in bank building Cashier is custodian "Hard cash" loaned free

Merced County

County seat, Merced.

Area, 1,750 square miles.

Population, 15,148 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $25,576,932 (taxable for county, $21,685,310).

County Free Library established June 6, 1910. Work started August, 1910. Appropriation, 1914-15, $14,900. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 18.

When the Merced County Free Library started operations in 1910 there was only a reading room in the Merced Chamber of Commerce and no books available to the people, while during this last year the book circulation through the branches of the county free library was 82,331. Every town and settlement is now served. Merced City, Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Irwin, Le Grand, Livingston, Los Banos, Snelling and Stevinson have pleasant reading rooms connected with their branches where a number of popular magazines are to be found, as well as a continuous supply of new and interesting books of all kinds.

Monterey County Free Library.

Miss Anne Hadden, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Adobe building, site of first private library and in 1834 of first college in California

Old building in which first public library was housed in 1849

Carmel-by-the-Sea famous artist author colony keeps in touch with the world through a library branch

A pack horse carries books to branches over the mountain trails

The "flying duck" novel method of sending books to flood bound borrowers

Monterey County

County seat, Salinas.

Area, 3,450 square miles.

Population, 24,146 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $32,363,263 (taxable for county, $27,604,916).

County Free Library established Aug. 6, 1912. Work started Sept. 1, 1913. Appropriation, 1914-15, $7,539.82. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915) 16.

The Monterey County Free Library was started on September 1, 1913. After overcoming difficulties and delays in finding and fitting out headquarters, the first branch was established at Greenfield in January, 1914. Now, in January, 1915, there are sixteen branches in operation.

Monterey County has one railroad running its length. Only six of the sixteen branches are on the railroad, all the others are reached by stage or conveyance in varying distances of from five to forty miles. There are communities on the coast which can only be reached by trail over the mountains, and all freight has to be packed in on horse, mule, or burro back. In the winter, when roads are washed out, pack horses have also to be used to take the mail to two of the branches which ordinarily are reached by stage. Last year floods in the Salinas Valley carried away many of the bridges, and where ferries were impossible a cage and cable worked by pulleys was used

to carry freight and passengers across the river. Still in operation this year, where the bridge is not yet replaced, is one of these "flying ducks" as they are called.

The first college or school library in California, outside of the Missions, was located about six miles from Salinas at the foot of the Gabilan Mountains. This was a private library until Jan. 1, 1834, when W. E. P. Hartnell established at his own home the first college in California.

Early in 1849 the first public library in California was opened in the old Cuartel building at Monterey through the instrumentality of Rev. S. H. Willey. This library was afterwards moved to Colton Hall.

The libraries already established when the Monterey County Free Library was started were the public libraries at Salinas, Pacific Grove and Monterey, and those supported by subscription at Carmel and Spreckels. The two latter are now deposit stations of the county library. King City has recently established a library and is soon to have the benefit of county free library service.

Monterey Public Library.

Miss Etta Eckhardt, Librarian.

Picture:

Summer and winter books
ready at the library
for residents and
Hotel del Monte's guests

Pacific Grove Public Library.

Miss Elizabeth S. Jones, Librarian.

Picture:

Books for many
Lover's Point for a few
the beach for all

Riverside County Free Library.

Joseph F. Daniels, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Headquarters of
county free library
showing class taking
six weeks' library course

Branch in post office
Postmaster custodian
Many foreigners served

Branch library
and fire department
in same building

Riverside County

County seat, Riverside.

Area, 7,008 square miles.

Population, 34,696 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $34,005,577 (taxable for county, $27,189,460).

County Free Library established Nov. 8, 1911. Appropriation, 1914-15, $5,865. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 45.

The Riverside County Free Library lists as its problems:

1. Working outward from well established centers.
2. The rural schoolhouse as an outlying library center.
3. The problem of the Melting Pot—a mixture of races.
4. The problem of training for library service.
5. The problem of the actual erection of outpost library buildings.
6. The problem of actual employment of books in daily occupations of the people of the region—usually the man upon the land and the woman in his home.
7. The problem of wider culture in the librarian.

From the Riverside Public Library as headquarters, the attempt is being made to work out these problems. The library conducts a six weeks' course for librarians—usually during the winter months, and loans its books to the people of the county through the branches located in public libraries, schools, etc.

The Highgrove Branch is an example of the problem of serving the foreigner out in the country, and the Arlington Branch is an example of a town branch which is really a center for the many activities and interests of that part of the town.

Sacramento County Free Library.

Lauren W. Ripley, County Librarian.

Picture:

First branch
first custodian
first borrowers and
first county free library

Sacramento County

County seat, Sacramento.

Area, 988 square miles.

Population, 67,806 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation $92,285,557 (taxable for county, $82,222,016).

County Free Library established Oct. 1, 1908. Appropriation, 1914-15, $11,875. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 180.

The Sacramento County Free Library commenced operations Oct. 1, 1908, under an agreement between the then Board of Directors of the City Library and the County Board of Supervisors. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, the City Library was opened to all residents of the county under the same regulations as city residents, and the library undertook to establish agencies throughout the county as rapidly as funds permitted. The first of these agencies was established at Elk Grove. This was followed by stations at other of the more populous sections of the county, preference being given to localities distant from the city. These stations were located in schools, general stores, post offices and private homes. As the library grew in resources, reading rooms, in rented quarters, with salaried attendants, were opened where it seemed probable the use would warrant. On the first of the year the library had five such reading rooms, besides twenty-eight public deposit stations.

Work with the schools was, from the beginning, given a large place in the policy of the library. Early in 1911 the library began supplying classroom libraries from a special collection built up for that purpose. Seventy-five hundred volumes are set apart for this purpose, about 2,500 being added each year. The classroom library list has been adopted by the County Board of Education as the approved list for school library purchase. At the beginning of the year, 176 classroom libraries, located in 61 school buildings, were in use. Under the law providing for such action, 37 school districts, including the Sacramento City school district, have made arrangements with the library for library service. Through these districts, the library directly reaches about seven-eighths of the teachers and pupils of the elementary schools of the county. Supplementary as well as general reading is supplied. This opportunity to exert an active influence upon the reading of the schools is one of the library's most valued assets.

Through the central library, branches, deposit stations and schools the library is within reaching distance of 95 per cent of county's population. To serve the remainder, additional stations will be established whenever suitable arrangements can be made, or service, in special cases, can be had directly from the central library.

San Bernardino County Free Library.

Miss Caroline S. Waters, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Branch among the orange groves

Community branch in schoolhouse

Fine schoolhouse, fine books

fine paid

Branch on Mojave desert

Note variety of people served

San Bernardino County

County seat, San Bernardino.

Area, 20,055 square miles.

Population, 56,706 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $63,345,022 (taxable for county, $40,420,171).

County Free Library established July 14, 1913. Work started Feb. 1, 1914. Appropriation, 1914-15, $9,306.80. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 26.

Being the largest county in the United States and with an area as large as five New England states put together, it is not surprising to learn that three of the 26 branches are 250 miles away from the central library. One branch at Ludlow on the desert about 150 miles away serves the people 90 miles north just across the line in Inyo County at Death Valley Junction and Ryan.

At the Del Rosa Branch one has a view of the San Bernardino Mountain, snow-capped, with the orange groves in the valley below. From the Etiwanda Branch in the western part of the San Bernardino Valley, one sees a beautiful avenue with orange and lemon groves on both sides. The Victorville Branch on the Mojave desert shows what the county free library is doing for the homesteaders and all the new agricultural colonies on the desert; also for the ranchers and miners —farming and mining being the principal industries. At Victorville one sees the Victorville Narrows with the Mojave River and Mt. San Bernardino in the distance.

San Diego County Free Library.

Miss Jennie Herrman, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Branch in office
of lumber company
Some lumber and
all books "red"

Progress of a branch
First housed in drug store
now in building erected by
county and community

Branch in Woman's Club house

Old church used
as community club house
and branch library

San Diego County

County seat, San Diego.

Area, 4,207 square miles.

Population, 61,665 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $75,866,729 (taxable for county, $69,283,571).

County Free Library established April 5, 1912. Work started Feb. 15, 1913. Appropriation, 1914-15, $10,817.33. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 34.

The enthusiastic appreciation of the county free library service that is expressed in every part of the county not only advertises the work and creates a further demand, but makes the filling of the requests a real pleasure. An engineer of the highway who was marooned during January on account of the unusual rains said he was saved from desperation during his enforced retirement from work on the roads by the library service through the branch at Cardiff-by-the-Sea. The debaters from the Cuyamaca Union High School at Julian reported that their winning the silver cup in the county debating league was largely due to the material they had had from the county free library. The La Mesa people continue to be proud of their club house and library which the women feel was only possible on account of the county free library movement. Similar enthusiasm exists in every part of the county.

So the requests and circulation are growing daily—far faster than the funds with which to give the service, but what California people want and enjoy they are very willing to pay for and funds grow each year in an effort to keep up with the growth in library needs.

San Francisco Mechanics' Mercantile Library.

Francis B. Graves, Librarian.

Pictures:

Mechanics' Mercantile
library serves thousands

In its famous chessroom.

The Mechanics' Mercantile Library in San Francisco was established in 1850. In the fire of April, 1906, it was destroyed, the loss being about 200,000 volumes. It was immediately re-established and already has over 50,000 volumes and serves about 3,500 members.

Supported by membership fees, it is the largest subscription library in the state.

San Joaquin County Free Library.

W. F. Clowdsley, County Librarian.

San Joaquin County

County seat, Stockton.

Area, 1,370 square miles.

Population, 50,731 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $66,368,964 (taxable for county, $56,875,902).

County Free Library established March 7, 1910. Appropriation, 1914-15, $10,000. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 23.

With products and industries extending in every direction, San Joaquin County people have needed books and other material on every sort of subject.

Even in the first fifteen months of the county free library service the circulation of books was 50,676. It has increased each year until the total for the year 1914 was 67,279.

San Mateo County Free Library.

San Mateo County

County seat, Redwood City.

Area, 470 square miles.

Population, 26,585 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $32,465,471 (taxable for county, $30,325,475).

County Free Library established Sept. 5, 1912. No appropriation made as yet and so library has not been started.

Santa Barbara County Free Library.

Mrs. Frances Burns Linn, County Librarian.

Pictures (slides):

Books and workmen on way
to Gibraltar Dam branch

The camp at Gibraltar Dam

Books leaving
Santa Barbara post office
for Cuyama branch (250 miles)

On the long road to Cuyama

The opening of the package at Cuyama

Oil wells in ocean where
some branch borrowers work

Pier and pipe line at an
oil refinery. Crews of company's
tankers are patrons of
branch library

An oil barque sailing
for Honolulu carries
county free library books
for the 40-day cruise

Santa Barbara County

County seat, Santa Barbara.
Area, 2,450 square miles.
Population, 27,738 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $34,496,827 (taxable for county, $29,157,186).

County Free Library established Feb. 16, 1910. Appropriation, 1914-15, $8,289.01. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 41.

Santa Barbara was the first county to take up county free library work under the law passed in 1909. In 1910 it began with 10 branches, and now administers 41. The circulation of books during the past year has been 150,000 volumes.

This is not one of the largest counties of California, but its area is sufficient, being little less than that of the state of Connecticut. Nearly half of the people live in the city of Santa Barbara. But, with the exception of the inhabitants of Santa Maria and Lompoc, the rest are to be found in very small communities, in some cases remote and hard to reach. There are construction camps and oil leases and little groups of homesteaders far away from the ordinary lines of travel that must not be left out of any plan for getting books to all the people who want books and can make good use of them. It is not easy to supply these needs, but the problem is none the less interesting, on that account, and when it has been worked out the satisfaction is great.

At Gibraltar Construction Camp, at the north portal of the water tunnel which the city of Santa Barbara has bored through the mountains, men have been at work upon the construction of a dam and reservoir for impounding the flood waters of the Santa Ynez River. Their camp has been made a branch, and the books have to go and come as the men do, through four miles of a 5 by 7 foot hole in the mountains. Before "the train starts" from the head of Mission Canyon the book package is carefully wrapped to protect it from water-drip and flying sparks. It is given the place of honor at the front end of the car, and the "passengers" have to divide up as well as they can what little room there is left. Naturally, at such a branch as this, there is considerable demand for something besides "light reading," and many books on engineering and nature study have been sent out.

Distribution of books to the branches east, west and northwest is a comparatively easy matter. In most cases it is only necessary to follow lines of railroad that lie within the county, and it is not difficult to reach by stage those places which lie away from the railroad. But when it comes to the thinly settled mountain region of the northeast, that is a different problem. If packages of books could only be sent "as the crow flies" the distance would not be over seventy miles. But nothing in the way of a "crow carrier service" has yet been devised, and, therefore, these have to go by parcel post east and south and north and then southwest, via Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and Kern counties, about 200 miles, in order to reach Maricopa, from which point they have still more than forty miles of stage journey to reach the little settlements of Wasioja and Cuyama. There are times in winter when, for a few hours, the road up into these mountain valleys looks quite Siberian, and certainly no Siberian exiles could be more eager over "good news from a far country" than are these readers when they gather around a fresh package of books—for they are booklovers, some of them coming anywhere from four to fifteen miles in order to avail themselves of county free library privileges.

Once upon a time a bright woman wrote to the Santa Barbara library to inquire if there was any way to get the use of books at the desert place where she was living. "We have nothing here now," she wrote, "but oil and stars." There are

many places in Santa Barbara County where this was almost literally true until the county free library began its work. It was not true at Summerland, where there has been a considerable community for a long time, and where there is abundance of ocean along with the oil and the stars. But the flourishing county branch which has been established there shows what an added community interest books and magazines are; and the branch at Gaviota has as patrons the crews of the company's oil ships. They borrow books for the 40 days' trip to Honolulu and back.

Santa Clara County Free Library.

Miss Stella Huntington, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Billy, youngest borrower

Branch in realty office
"Watch us grow"

Branch at Lick Observatory
on Mt. Hamilton

Books come high
but they must have them!

Santa Clara County
County seat, San Jose.
Area, 1,355 square miles.
Population, 83,539 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $81,008,331 (taxable for county, $72,077,380).

County Free Library established July 20, 1912. Work started July 1, 1914. Appropriation, 1914-15, $5,700. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 16.

The Santa Clara County Free Library is only six months old, but it has 16 branches and has circulated in the six months nearly 14,000 books. As there were only 2,429 books at the end of the six months it is easy to see that the books are kept busy and also that the assistance of the State Library has been found to be invaluable in filling requests.

The number of books at the branches range from 106 to 397. At least 50 books are changed every three months, but no book is returned to the main library until the custodian finds that her people have finished it. If the custodian finds that there are not enough books in the library more are sent at any time. There are no fixed collections of books; the books are selected to fit the individual needs of the people at each branch. As to the special request books their name is legion; the requests come in from men, women and children and on many subjects; a high school boy who wants to study bee culture during vacation; a play for a club to give; how to make candy; books on "new thought"; how to make tatting, etc.

The branch at Los Altos is our first branch and is a good "sample branch." The branch at Mt. Hamilton has given perhaps as much pleasure as any of the branches. The people on the mountain top form a little community by themselves and the library, "with all the books we have been reading reviews about," is greatly appreciated.

Solano County Free Library.

Miss Clara B. Dills, County Librarian.

Picture:

Headquarters in
new high school building
used also as branch
for school and town.

Solano County
County seat, Fairfield.
Area, 911 square miles.
Population, 27,559 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $26,361,996 (taxable for county, $23,066,631).

County Free Library established April 6, 1914. Work started August 1, 1914. Appropriation, 1914-15, $5,515.33. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 24.

The Solano County Free Library started with blotters, pens and ink. The county seat, Fairfield, had never maintained a public library so that one of the first branches to be started was to give service to it. The circulation of the branch started with a daily average of eight and now the books borrowed per day figure from 90 to 110 volumes. Great interest and appreciation is shown by the people of this community. The same is true of the second branch which was opened at Rio Vista, a town down on the Sacramento River. And so branches are added one by one. The town of Cement, whose name characteristically implies the reason for its existence, has just had a branch placed in its hotel. Chemists and workers in the quarries and factory are already asking for technical books.

A big county with many library needs is enthusiastically receiving the beginnings of what promises with more time

and income to be one of its most appreciated and successful institutions.

Stanislaus County Free Library.

Miss Cornelia D. Provines, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Branch in private residence
Former custodian
state traveling library
now county branch custodian

Books housed in paint shop
Painter is custodian

Branch in church basement
always open for reading
and games

County storekeeper
on his regular rounds
delivers books "à la cart"

Headquarters of Stanislaus
County Free Library

Stanislaus County

County seat, Modesto.

Area, 1,486 square miles.

Population, 22,522 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $31,843,486 (taxable for county, $27,815,555).

County Free Library established Aug. 14, 1911. Work started Jan. 2, 1912. Appropriation, 1914-15, $11,200. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 21.

The Stanislaus County Free Library began work upon the second day of January, 1912. The Modesto Public Library was at that time established in three small rooms in the Belleview Building on I street, in Modesto. Immediately upon the establishment of the county free library, Modesto become a part of the county free library system. In April of 1912, the library building which was the bequest of Mr. Oramil McHenry to the city of Modesto, was completed and the two libraries were moved into it. The name of the Modesto Public Library was changed to the McHenry Public Library, and since that time the work of the two libraries has gone forward simultaneously, under the direction of one librarian.

On January 1, 1912, there were no branch libraries in the county, and the total number of registered cardholders was 1,064, while the circulation for the year of 1912 was 28,718 books, the number of volumes in library being 2,401. On January 1, 1915, the branches in the county numbered 21, with the number of registered cardholders as 6,263, while the circulation for the year 1914 was 99,114 books, with 15,721 volumes available for circulation.

Branches in the county are established in various places: in stores, schoolhouses, a post office, private homes; one in a bank building and one in the basement of a church; one in the county jail and one in the rooms of the Modesto Coffee Club. Ten of the branches have reading rooms, some of which are open all day and evening, and some only at stated hours daily. Eleven branches are deposit stations only, but all are provided with periodicals, both for reading and for circulation.

Tulare County Free Library.

Mrs Bessie Herrman Twaddle, County Librarian.

Pictures:

A branch building erected
by community

A negro settlement served
by county free library
Building gift of individual

Armenian colony at Yettem
receives library service

Tulare County

County seat, Visalia.

Area, 4,863 square miles.

Population, 35,440 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $48,840,347 (taxable for county, $40,857,785).

County Free Library established June 10, 1910. Appropriation, 1915-16, $15,718.89. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 95.

It is not quite five years since the Tulare County Free Library was established with an appropriation of $4,000. The sum has been gradually increased until for the year of 1914-1915 the income is nearly four times that amount.

More than a third of the population of the county have availed themselves of the county free library service, and the registered cardholders read in 1914 over 115,000 volumes, an average of more than 15 volumes for each reader.

Regular shipments of fifty volumes are sent quarterly to each branch, in addition to the books which are sent by mail or express at special request whenever books are needed for study or reference by

schools, clubs or individual readers. During 1914 over 15,000 volumes were shipped to the branches, 4,000 of which were in response to special requests, and 800 were from the State Library at Sacramento.

The moving pictures at the Expositions show the library branch at Yettem, the Armenian colony of the county, where the readers are interested in acquiring English, acquainting themselves with American customs, and in reading about agricultural methods. They have read a great deal of American history and most of the English and American classics.

The picture of the branch at Allensworth, the negro settlement, shows the library which is the pride of the community. The readers here are interested in various subjects and always request reading matter of a high order, books on agriculture, economics, philosophy, history, etc., but they are especially interested in books which deal with the problems of their race.

Recently a shipment of books was sent to the Tule River Indian Reservation. The collection was made up of books which would be helpful to the teachers, and suitable for the Indian children.

Wherever one may live in Tulare County, in orange district or dairy region, in the mountains or on the plains, he may have library advantages through the branches of the Tulare County Free Library.

Ventura County Free Library.

County seat, Ventura.
Area, 1,850 square miles.
Population, 18,347 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $30,971,620 (taxable for county, $27,378,039).

County Free Library established April 9, 1915. Provision for its support will be made in the September tax levy.

Yolo County Free Library.

Mrs Julia G. Babcock, County Librarian.

Pictures:

Headquarters and
first automobile used in
county free library work

Superintendent of schools
ecoperates with
county librarian

State University Farm uses
county free library

Branch in barber shop
gives service
to big and little shavers

Service to town school
Expressman arrives with
books

Service in country school
Children take books home
for whole family

County librarian and
county superintendent
of schools
visit Indian school branch

Yolo County
County seat, Woodland.
Area, 1,017 square miles.
Population, 13,926 (in 1910).
Assessed valuation, $24,621,651 (taxable for county, $21,235,581).

County Free Library established July 12, 1910. Appropriation, 1915-16, $8,-096.98. Branches (Jan. 1, 1915), 57.

The Yolo County Free Library is prominent in county free library activities because of the work with the schools which has developed largely through the cooperation between the superintendent of schools of Yolo County and the librarian of the county free library, who have traveled hundreds of miles together in the machine belonging to the superintendent.

To the schools the library supplies books for supplementary reading as well as a general collection of books for the home reading of the pupils and for the use of the adults in the school district. Special requests are supplied as promptly as possible either from the shelves of the county library or from the State Library. Fillmore school is a typical one-room country school and the children are shown going home with their books. At Davis University Farm a branch is maintained in connection with the library of the farm. This collection of books consists largely of books for recreational reading, as the University supplies most of the needs for study purposes. The Winters school is a type of the larger school in the county where a collection of several hundred books is maintained for the use of teachers and pupils. As there is a community branch at Winters, books

for the parents are not included in the number.

At Madison the branch library and reading room is pleasantly housed in a room devoted to the purpose connected with the residence and shop of the custodian.

The branch at the Guinda Indian school has recently been opened for the use of the teachers and the Indian pupils, who spend the forenoon in manual or domestic work and the afternoon in study of books.

For some of the larger schools requesting it, magazines, such as St. Nicholas, Youths' Companion, National Geographic Magazine, or Popular Mechanics, are subscribed for by the county free library.

Four of the branches have reading rooms with a good supply of periodicals, and it is hoped to extend this work as rapidly as funds will permit.

California State Library.

J. L. Gillis, Librarian.

Picture:

Capitol at Sacramento
California State Library
occupies 30 per cent
of floor space

People of California
voted $3,000 000 bonds
for office and library buildings
City Sacramento donated site
two blocks facing capitol

State Library supplements
other library service free

Through about 800 libraries
and 1,200 branch libraries
reaches every resident
in every part
of the state

California

Area, 158,297 square miles.

Second in size among the states.

Population, 2,377,549 (in 1910).

Assessed valuation, $3,134,811,284 (for 1914-15).

Number of counties, 58.

The California State Library was established January 24, 1850. Appropriation for 1914-15, $98,000. Total accession (Jan. 1, 1915), 170,431, exclusive of 4,254 books for the blind and of about 125,000 volumes in the Sutro collection in San Francisco.

The California State Library School was established September 4, 1913. This has no separate appropriation, but is supported entirely out of the State Library fund.

The Library and Library School are both located in the Capitol at Sacramento.

For further information about California Library service, or for any of the circulars listed below, write to State Library, Sacramento, California.

Three circulars that may be had on request:

California County Free Libraries: Two questions often asked, 5th ed. 1915.

California County Free Library Service to Schools, 1915.

Circular and Announcement of the California State Library School, 1915-16.

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